Sir, this year again there is a lose of Rs. 500 crores. 31 human lives have been lost, 1200 Cattles have died and 1,500 houses have collapsed. In addition to this, three lakh hectares of land has been affected. In Solan district, one whole village Ramshehr has sunk. Villages like Bontha and Kanala have also collapsed. Hindustan-Tibet road is not functioning. Kangra-Jamna roads has collapsed and because of this vehicular traffic has stopped there. Fruit growers are facing a lot of difficulties. Their goods will perish if proper action is not taken immediately. Similarly, Manali has also totally collapsed. Rivers Beas, Yammuna, Sutlej and Ravi are on spate and people have started shifting from their banks.

I request the Central Government to send immediate relief to Himachal Pradesh, otherwise we are going to face a lot of difficulties.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter. One United States-based Human Genome Diversity Project is clandestinely procuring human genetic resources from indigenous Indian communities through several hospitals in the country.

Sir, it is reported that the controversial three billion dollar project is collecting about 1,00,000 human genome from all over the country. The biological samples including blood, semen, perspiration, bone marrow, hair and the like from the targeted communities are being quietly exported to the US. A Hyderabad-based hospital, for instance is exporting blood samples drawn from certain individuals who are believed to be carrying genes responsible for the eye disease *retinis pigmentosa* to the National Eye Institute in Washington.

Sir, the targeted Indian communities are Gauds, Thakurs, Nairs, Cholanaikayans and Kadars, Lohanas and Jats as well as endangered tribes like the Onges and Shompen from the Andman and Nicobar Islands.

We can understand if turmeric is being patented in the US but if a Thakur or Jat is patented in America then what will happen to this country! This is a serious matter. There is no check on such exports but for an Indian Council of Medical Research Committee which, in turn, is pathetically inadequate to protect the country's rights. We have no regulatory body to monitor them.

I demand that export of human material should be with the knowledge of the Government and that should be checked. This is a serious matter. The Government should take a note of it and make a statement in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Hon. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the country to the Agra Heritage Project which was prepared to attract tourists to Taj Mahal. In the name of keeping the surroundings clean and removing encroachments, people who were settled there in the time of Shahjehan are being uprooted. But no efforts are being made to remove filth from the city of Taj and to provide civil amenities to the people. The administration is also not properly putting before the Supreme Court the matters relating to the Taj Protected Area. As a result, a situation of great uncertainty is prevailing there. The people are in a sorry plight and they are being exploited. The interests of the Taj Protected Area are not being served. The Agra Heritage Project envisages setting up of a Development Authority for Taj Protected Area and an all round development of that area. I therefore, appeal to the Tourism Minister to implement the Taj Heritage Project immediately and make a statement in the House in this regard. I request the hon. Minister that huge sums amounting to crores of rupees that have been spent by the Government of India and America on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I am on a point of procedure. I am seeing for the last 15 days that Shri Chandra Shekhar is shifting from the Congress benches to the Congress benches. He is not sitting in the original bench. A call has been given to the Congressmen who left after 1969 to come. Had he accepted it? I do not know. The Working Committee has given a call. Had he accepted it?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an aspersion and I shall like to explain it. My friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot, is a little demoralised. He wanted a morale booster. So, I said those things ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, I have not yet completed my point. The hon. Minister is present here ...*(Interruptions)*. He wants to give a response ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you please sit down. Kindly listen to Shri Jena.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the hon. Member from Agra has raised the issue of Taj Mahal and the Mother Heritage Centre. I fully appreciate his feelings. I had a detailed discussion with him.